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Split on Parks' Future

City, Saanich Rift To Be Aired Today

A rift between Victoria and Saanich could grow or be closed today at a meeting of the Victoria-Saanich beaches and parks committee.

Saanich council has recently taken the stand that city council should give positive assurance that city-owned parks in Saanich will remain parks permanently. Pending such assurance, Saanich has indicated it won't contribute its one-third share this year to the committee's $12,000 budget for maintenance of the parks.

Unless this situation is smoothed over today, continued existence of the committee will be jeopardized.

The committee is responsible for Elk and Beaver Lakes, Mount Douglas Park and the Gorge park in Saanich.

Pearkes on Defence

Staggering Cost Prohibits A-Subs

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Pearkes Hopes

Flight Centre Soon

Defence Minister George Pearkes said last night he is hopeful that a start will be made this summer on the long-awaited new terminal building for Patricia Bay airport.

He inspected airport facilities during a two-day visit which concludes today. He said later in an interview that work to fit runways for larger and heavier aircraft was proceeding and clearing the site of the new terminal had started.

DRAINAGE PROJECT

Extensive drainage work is also to be carried out at the airport by the federal transport department.

The minister also visited the site of the new federal government ferry wharf at Sidney. He said he was pleased with progress and hoped that new facilities would be completed by early summer before the peak tourist period.

MORE SERVICE

The new wharf will enable Washington State Ferries to put another, larger ship on the run to step up its Sidney-Anacortes service.

Mr. Pearkes said he has included funds in his departmental estimates for replacements for the Canso aircraft now being used in search and rescue operations from Patricia Bay. He did not name the type of replacement aircraft.

GEORGE PEARKES
". . . shudder to think"

Esquimalt

Police Pay Bid Stalled

Demands for higher wages by Esquimalt Police Union have reached a deadlock and will go to conciliation, Reeve A. C. Wurtele said last night.

Police are seeking a 12 per cent wage increase which would give first-class constables $464.80 a month.

"Our police got a 13.3 per cent increase last year," Mr. Wurtele said, "and we felt it was very reasonable that they should not get an increase this year."

Minor changes in the agreement between police and the municipality — sick benefits, court time, seniority and promotion, and relief police officers—are not an issue in the dispute.

New Pact Helps City

Staggering cost of building atomic submarines looms as the biggest obstacle against putting Canada's navy undersea to meet the threat of underwater nuclear attack.

But Defence Minister George Pearkes indicated in an interview here last night that a partial solution may lie in recent agreement by the U.S. government to the principle of shared production in North American defence.

"For defence purposes, the North American continent is indivisible," the minister said.

FULL PARTNERS

"Canada and the U.S. constitute an indivisible partnership, sharing responsibility for defence as well as costs and production."

He emphasized that agreement in principle to sharing of defence production means a great deal to this country. The minister said it will mean shipyards in Victoria and elsewhere can bid on U.S. defence contracts.

He indicated this process would also work in the opposite direction, with U.S. firms sharing in bidding for at least some Canadian defence contracts.

CONSIDERABLE HELP

As far as defence costs are concerned, Mr. Pearkes said, the U.S. "has helped quite a bit," while Canada carries its full share of defence responsibility.

The defence minister said shipyards from coast to coast in Canada had been surveyed to determine which were capable of building submarines.

A team of RCN officers and scientists has also been carrying out a survey of nuclear submarine construction in Britain and the U.S.

DEFENSIVE FORCE

"There are some indications that one of the best ways of meeting the submarine threat is to have a defensive force of submarines," said the minister.

He added that any decision to build atom subs in Canada "still is some way off."

Nuclear submarines would be very expensive — "I shudder to think of the cost," he said.

SIX VESSELS

In the immediate future, the RCN construction program consists of six "repeat-Restigouche" anti-submarine vessels, a modified version of the improved Restigouche-class destroyer escorts.

The first of these new DEs has already been laid down at a Montreal shipyard while the second will be started this summer in Victoria.

Victoria Machinery Depot and Yarrows will share construction of the $28,000,000 ship.

NO MERGER

Mr. Pearkes said he did not foresee any merging of naval forces of Canada and the U.S. in peace time along the lines of NORAD.

He is here on a flying visit which included a tour of his riding, followed this morning by a visit to HMC Dockyard. He is due to leave by air this afternoon for Saskatoon, where his official aircraft will pick up Prime Minister Diefenbaker before proceeding to Ottawa.

Daffodils as Far as the Eye Can See

Hundreds of thousands of brilliant yellow daffodils are carpeting Beacon Hill Park with blossoms in the fine spring sunshine. This scene shows just a few of the blossoms, alongside Dallas Road. Tourists and Victoria residents alike are visiting the park to photograph the beauty.—(Colonist photo)

Limited Effect

Assessment Cut On Saanich Land Possible in 1960

Assessments on some land in Saanich may decrease slightly next year as the result of a newly-approved order in council.

The provincial order rules, in effect, that land assessments will equal 60 per cent of 1955 market values.

Present land assessments are based on average market values over a four-year period. In the case of this year's assessments, the years 1954 to 1957 inclusive were used, and for next year the averages would have been taken for the years 1955 to 1958.

In areas like Saanich where land is in brisk demand, climbing market values in the most recent years have tended to pull the averages for the four-year period above the mid-period values.

For this reason, abolition of the "moving base" and stabilization at the 1955 level is expected to involve reduction of assessments on some properties.

The order in council also abolishes the same moving base for assessment of improvements—houses and other buildings—and rules that they will be assessed at 60 per cent of 1953 construction costs less depreciation.

This ruling is expected to be of less consequence because most assessment of improvements has been carried out in conformity with a provincial assessment manual itself based on 1953 costs, without subsequent adjustment for market values.

It may, however, result in some assessment reductions in Victoria city, where the assessment program has been well advanced.

No Lives Endangered

Victoria Rides Out Major Windstorm

Greater Victoria survived in good order the spring's first major windstorm — a blow-up Sunday that saw winds averaging 40 miles an hour and gusting up to 63.

There were minor interruptions to power and telephone services, but there were no injuries and no lives endangered.

Closest to the blow were occupants of two small craft.

Albert Curtis, Jr., 27, his brother Gerald, 25—both of 1854 Stelly's Crossroad, and Roma McLeod, 25, of Victoria, set out at 9 a.m. Sunday in a 14-foot cabin boat after salmon.

They had caught one when rising winds compelled them to run for the nearest island—a small one off Sidney. They waited out the weather until yesterday morning, arriving back in Sidney just before a search was to be launched by RCMP at request of relatives.

Out at HMCS Venture today there are 16 junior cadets who are much saltier men since Sunday's blow.

They returned from a trip to Seattle through the height of Sunday's winds aboard Royal Canadian Navy's 104-foot ketch, HMCS Oriole.

Oriole left Seattle at 9 a.m., sailed through calm waters up Puget Sound to Port Townsend and waited there for a couple of hours. Then, not wanting the cadets to be late returning, Lt.-Cmdr. C. A. Prosser of the Oriole decided to press on.

Under reefed mizzen and jumbo sails, and with motor running low, Oriole made her way home. The wind was on her quarter, which helped, but waves running 25 to 30 feet high looked mighty impressive from her deck.

"I was glad when it turned dark," Lt.-Cmdr Prosser joked yesterday. "We couldn't see the waves then. Yes, there was a bit of seasickness, but no one gave in to it."

Weather forecasters say a similar storm may hit Victoria early today, again bringing rain and mild temperatures.

Chamber Tourists In Demand

Hardest part of arranging for Victoria Chamber of Commerce's goodwill tour of Washington and Oregon is finding time to visit all the towns which want to entertain the Victoria visitors, Lew Worrell, assistant manager of the chamber, said last night.

Some 32 seats have already been booked for the tour which will be held from April 6 to 11. Applications to take part will close tomorrow at the chamber office, 816 Wharf Street.

The group will fly to Seattle at 8 a.m. April 6 and board the special bus which will carry them on the tour. Transportation and accommodation will cost $95 each.

RAY BIGGS

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Seen In Passing

Ray Biggs showing a customer through thousands of parts at Douglas Street car parts shop, which he runs with partner **Alf Blanco.** (Mr. Biggs, 42, lives at 1547 Monterey with wife **Gertrude** and five children, ranging in age from three to 19. Off duty, he likes to go fishing in his 14-foot, outboard runabout) . . . **John Coppinger** busily working at the Chamber of Commerce office . . . **Mrs. Linnea Sutherland** talking about the high cost of living with a friend . . . **Sam Lane** screening color pictures he took in England and Europe recently . . . **Jack Dirom** demonstrating a "space dog" . . . **Malcolm Barr** talking about camera flashguns.

UCLUELET — Barclay Stuart was re-elected president of the Ucluelet Medical Society at the recent annual meeting.

Other officers include Harold Chorley, treasurer; George H. Chorley, secretary, and Mrs. C. W. Larsen and Mrs. T. Kinoto, committee members.

Around the Island

Duncan Cuts Jobless Total

DUNCAN—There has been a decided improvement in the employment situation in the Duncan district during the last month, according to the monthly National Employment Service report issued by R. S. Robinson, manager of the Duncan office.

The number of unplaced applicants in March of this year totalled 875, compared with 1,390 in the same period of 1958. Production by major logging camps is currently at high levels, the report states, but a sizeable number of smaller camps are still inactive, with many local loggers being forced to go to distant points to obtain suitable employment.

"Sawmills and plywood plants continue at peak production, and for the first time in two years the supply of experienced workers is becoming exhausted," the report stated.

"The winter employment campaign, now drawing to a close, has provided employment for some 200 men in the local office area. Several fairly large construction projects now under way are absorbing some of the large surplus of construction workers, with local residents being given the preference in hirings."

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ALBERNI — This district is fortunate in the fact that there is no juvenile gang problem, Magistrate W. E. MacLeod said when he addressed Alberni PTA.

The majority of juveniles who appear in court here are brought in for traffic violations, he said.

Mr. MacLeod stressed the importance of parental example in keeping youngsters out of trouble.

Game Warden George Vincent also addressed the meeting. He spoke on the proper use of BB guns and air rifles, and informed the audience that the latter are classified as firearms. A licence is required to own an air rifle and no one under 14 years of age may legally carry or possess firearms, he said. He explained that a person between 14 and 18 must be accompanied by an adult while the parent or guardian must sign an affidavit of responsibility.

Mr. Vincent said that song birds must not be used as targets while there are many other birds, including hawks, which are now protected by law.

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PORT ALBERNI — Funeral services were held Saturday for Milo Lee Schley, who died March 24 in Vancouver General Hospital.

Mr. Schley, who had made his home on 12th Avenue North, was born 59 years ago in Washington, D.C.

He leaves his widow, Grace, at the residence; five sons, Lloyd and Allan of this district, Beverly and Leslie, RCN, Victoria, and Charlie, RCAF, Penhold, Alta.; four daughters, Mrs. Lloyd Bodaly and Mrs. Allan Hopkins, Alberni; Mrs. Donald Kirby, Edmonton, and Mrs. Ralph Simmons, Consort, Alta. Also surviving are his parents, three brothers and three sisters, and 15 grandchildren.

Legion rites were conducted in Somass Legion Hall with Capt. Ed Reed of the Salvation Army officiating. Burial was in the veterans' section, Greenwood Cemetery.

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TOFINO—Two fish packers apparently caught fire and sank to the bottom of Burton Mines Cotter Creek, Hesquiat Inlet, about 20 miles from here.

No one was injured.

The boats, one 50 feet long and the other larger, were the property of the Jackson Fish Company, of Crofton and Alco.

Island Woman Hurt In Malahat Plunge

Driver of a car which plunged some 50 to 60 feet down a bank on the Malahat about 5 p.m. yesterday, was said to be in "satisfactory" condition last night at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Mrs. Audrey Kerr of Ladysmith suffered face and body bruises in the accident.

RCMP said the car was heading towards Victoria when it swerved across the road, near Shawnigan Lake turnoff, went over the top of a guard rail and rolled down the steep bank.

Symphony Head Stays

John Barraclough Not Resigning Post

A spokesman for Victoria Symphony Society last night denied a report that John Barraclough, president of the society, has resigned.

"The entire report is erroneous," he said. "Mr. Barraclough has no intention of resigning."

The false report is believed to have been based on the fact that Mr. Barraclough has been in ill health recently.

The society's board of directors will meet tonight to complete plans for the society's final concerts for the season, to be held next weekend.

The annual meeting of the society will be held in June.

Arena May Operate City Parking Areas

The Memorial Arena commission may go into the parking business.

City manager C. C. Wyatt and city engineer James C. Garnett have been asked by city council public works committee to look into the feasibility of the commission developing and operating parking lots on the north side of the curling rink and on the corner of Quadra and Caledonia.

The property north of the curling rink is used for parking at present, but has never been properly developed as a parking lot. The other piece of property was acquired by the city last year, in line with the policy of gaining ownership of the whole arena block for future development, and a house on the lot is now being demolished.

Suggesting development of the property to the north of the rink, the city engineer told the committee the estimated cost of providing 66 parking spaces was $6,000.

His first suggestion was that the curling club or an automobile dealer might be interested in leasing the property after development.

Convictions, Fines Cut Straying Dogs

Combined campaign by SPCA officials and police has cut sharply into the number of dogs running at large in Oak Bay. The campaign was launched by mounting complaints from garden owners.

To date, nine owners have been convicted and fined for allowing their dogs to run at large; 17 more cases are pending.